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SNAAP

ABOVE HIM-- THE DULL THRUMM-A-RUMM OF THE HIGH FLYING TRANSPORT PLANE HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO FADE.

HOLLEE--! SOMETHIN'S *WRONG*-- MY *CHUTE*--

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AROUND HIM-- *DEADLY DANGER!*

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DICK AYERS AND ROMEO TANGHAL, ARTISTS

BEN ODA, LETTERER

JERRY SERPE, COLORIST

PAUL LEVITZ, EDITOR

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GROUNDS RUSHIN' UP *FAST*-- TOO FAST! FACE IT, *HAZARD*--

-- YOU BETTER GIT THIS *RIGHT* THE FIRST TIME--

--'CAUSE IT'S GONNA BE THE *ONLY CHANCE* YOU'LL HAVE!

SHRIPPP

BEAUTIFUL! NEVER THOUGHT A HUNK'A SILK COULD LOOK SO DAMNED *GOOD!*

ALL I GOTTA *WORRY* ABOUT *NOW* IS...

... *LANDIN'*-- *UNGHH*--!

TH-THAT SHOOK EVERY *BONE* IN MY BODY! BUT IT COULD'A BEEN WORSE-- A HELL OF A *LOT WORSE!* JUST HOPE I WASN'T--

"-- *SPOTTED!*"

AMERIKANER! ON YOUR FEET--

--BUT SLOWLY! VERY, VERY SLOWLY!

YOU SEE, OTTO? THEY ARE *ALL FOOLS*-- JUST AS DER FUEHRER HAS SAID--

--IMAGINE, SENDING BUT A *SINGLE MAN* TO CHALLENGE THE MIGHT OF DER FATHERLAND'S *INVINCIBLE* TROOPS--

MUMFF--!

--IT IS *HUMOROUS*, EH, OTTO?

CHOKK

PERHAPS THE *AMERIKANER* CAN-- *VAS!?* OTTO-- A *T-TRICK!*

OTTO--?

THAKLLINK

O-OTOHHH, MEIN GOTT--

--MEIN GOTT--!

N-NEIN! STAY B-BACK, SCHWARTZ!*

*BLACK -- PAUL.

TELL ME ABOUT IT, CREEP--

--'BOUT HOW MUCH FUN YOU'RE HAVIN' PLAYIN' SUPERMAN IN THIS STINKIN' WAR--

BADAM!!

--AN' MEBBE WE CAN ALL DIE LAUGHIN'--!

AND LATER...

THERE IT IS-- A CHUNK'A FRENCH REAL ESTATE CALLED TOUBORNE. ONLY NOW THE NAZIS'RE HOLDIN' IT TIGHTER'N A FAT WOMAN'S GIRDLE.

WEDGED BETWEEN THESE MOUNTAINS, IT'S PRACTICALLY UNTOUCHABLE. ARTILLERY CAN'T SHELL IT AN' OUR FLY-BOYS CAN'T GIT CLOSE ENUFF TO BOMB IT--

--WHICH MEANS THAT A FEW HOURS FROM NOW A LOT'A G.I.S'RE GONNA GIT SNUFFED, 'LESS I BRING THE HOUSE DOWN-- NOW--

--AN AVALANCHE, COURTESY OF GRAVEDIGGER'S SNOW-REMOVAL SERVICE--AN' THIS DYNAMITE OUGHTA DO THE TRICK!

THERE! TIMER'S SET TO GO OFF IN ONE HOUR-- ENUFF TIME FOR ME TO GIT OUTA-- HUH--?

CIVILIANS! BUT COMMSEC SAID THE FRENCH HAD ALL BEEN EVACUATED... OR--

BONG BONG BONG

--OR KILLED, GRAVEDIGGER? IT WOULD APPEAR THAT ARMY INTELLIGENCE HAS MADE A TRAGIC MISTAKE--

4

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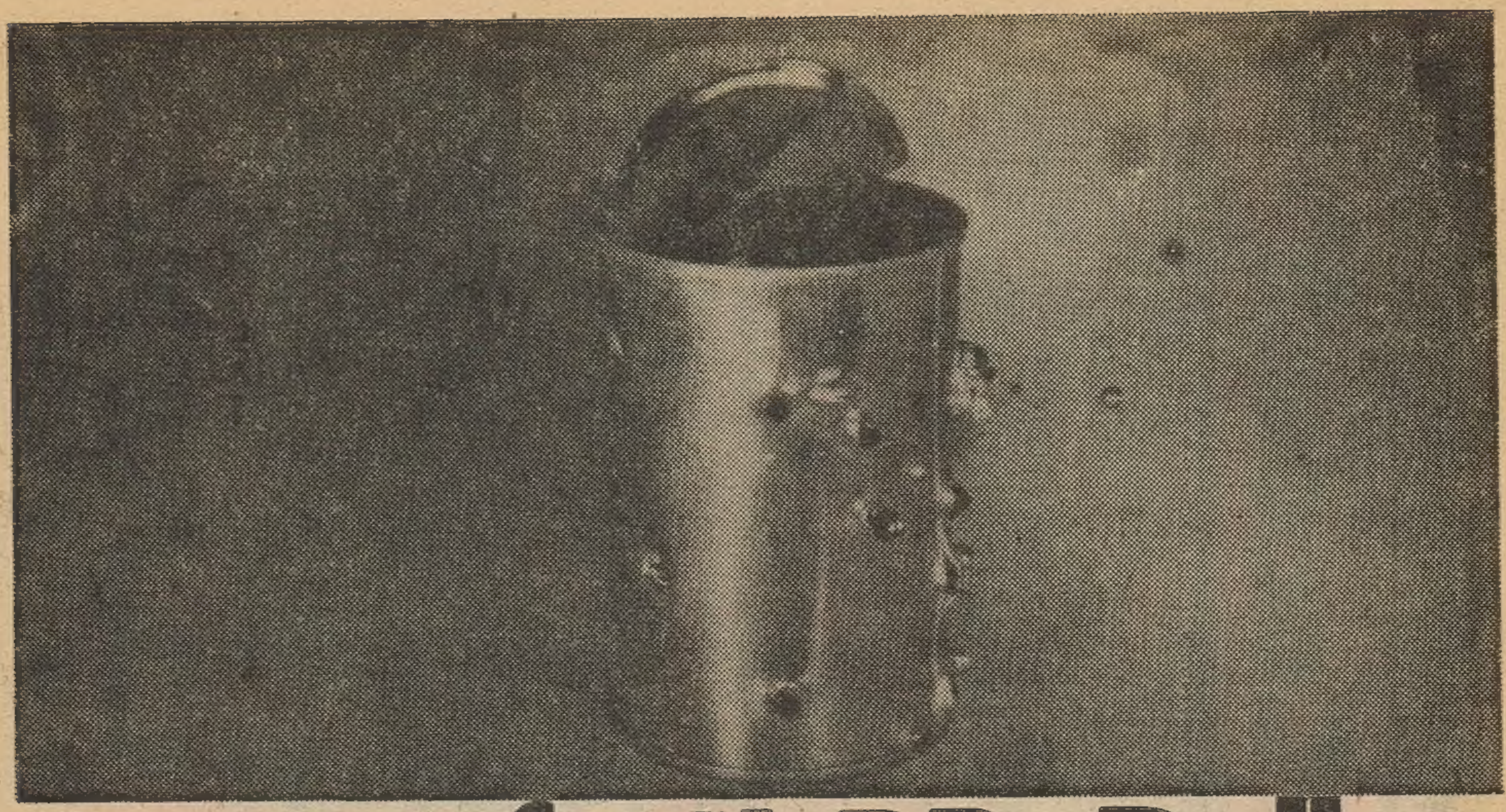

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--AND THE PEOPLE OF TOUBORNE WILL BE *BURIED* ETERNALLY BENEATH A WHITE, FRIGID *SHROUD*--

--AND THERE'S NOT ONE BLESSED *THING* YOU CAN DO TO *STOP* IT, IS THERE, GRAVEDIGGER? A LOT OF BONE-WEARY MUD TROOPERS ARE *DEPENDING* ON YOU-- AND THE *SUCCESS* OF YOUR *MISSION*--

--BUT, THE FRENCH--THE *INNOCENT* FRENCH--

GOD'S SPEED, CAPTAIN HAZARD...

INTERLUDE: EARLIER THAT EVENING... AT A *MILITARY HOSPITAL* OUTSIDE BRIGHTON, ENGLAND...

'ERE WE ARE, *MAJOR BIRCH!* TIME TO *EAT.* I 'OPE YOU--

--YOU!? MY GOD-- 'E'S *GONE*-- AN' LEFT A BLOODY *DECOY,* TO BOOT!

B-BUT WHERE... 'OW? 'E CAN'T BE *MOVED*-- IT COULD *KILL* 'IM!*

*CONSIDER YOURSELF COURTMARTIALED IF YOU *MISSED* ISSUES 3 AND 4!--*PAUL*

I TRUST YOU'RE *COMFORTABLE,* MAJOR BIRCH!

PERFECTLY, *MR. PRIME MINISTER*-- BUT WHAT IS THIS OPERATION *GRAVEDIGGER* OF WHICH YOU *SPOKE?*

WE'LL LEARN *MORE* OF THE MYSTERIOUS MAJOR BIRCH LATER -- RIGHT NOW THE ACTION'S *HOT AND HEAVY* IN *TOUBORNE*...

NOK NOK

VAS--? ONE MINUTE, I'M *COMING!*

EVENIN', FRITZ... NICE LITTLE *OUTPOST*, YOU GOT HERE--

GOTT IN HIMMEL-- AMERIKANER!

SSSSS

--NOW THAT I'VE *EXTERMINATED* THE RATS--!

KAWHUMP

THAT OUGHTA KEEP 'EM *BUSY* HERE -- WHILE I SCOOT *'CROSS TOWN*--

"--TO THE *CHURCH!*"

HERE, FRENCH SCHWEINE, *DIG*--

--THEIR *OWN GRAVES*, PRIEST, AND THE RESPONSIBILITY IS YOURS AND *YOURS ALONE!*

NO, GENERAL SCHLEMER, *YOU* BROUGHT THE *WAR* TO US! AND IF WE ARE TO *DIE*-- IF IT IS *GOD'S WILL*--WE CHOOSE TO DIE *HERE*, IN *OUR VILLAGE* OF *TOUBORNE*--

--BENEATH THE BLESSED *SHADOW* OF OUR *VIRGIN* MARY!

OLD MAN, YOU ARE A *FOOL*--

--THERE IS NO "GOD"--

SKLIKK

--OTHER THAN OUR *FUEHRER*! AND *ALL* WHO OPPOSE HIM--

BRAPARAPPP

--WILL BE *CRUSHED*!

WHERE IS YOUR "GOD" *NOW*, OLD MAN? SHOW HIM TO ME-- I DON'T *SEE HIM*--

--PERHAPS HE IS *AFRAID* OF GOOD, GERMAN *STEEL*, EH, OLD MAN?

NO, GENERAL... NOT FRIGHTENED--

--MERELY SICKENED...

ENOUGH, FOOLS! THE NIGHT IS COLD--

--AND WE HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO--

RATATA

--THAN TEND SHEEP!

OH, DEAR GOD-- T-THEY'RE GOING TO--

BRAMMMAPRAPPP

GET UP-- HURRY! WE HAFTA GIT OUTA HERE 'FORE THE NAZIS FIGGER OUT WHAT'S GOIN' ON!

NON--!

WE CANNOT LEAVE. THIS IS OUR VILLAGE... OUR HOME...

...AND OUR CHURCH!

YEAH, BUT IN A FEW MINUTES THAT MOUNTAINSIDE'S GONNA CHANGE ALL THAT, YOU--

--WE CHOOSE TO REMAIN. THE LORD WILL PROTECT US JUST AS FATHER MARTINIQUE HAS SAID!

NOW WHAT, GRAVEDIGGER? YOU HAVE SIX MINUTES LEFT, JUST SIX MINUTES TO CHANGE THE ATTITUDES OF A LIFETIME...

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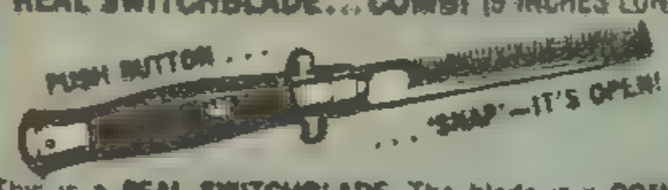

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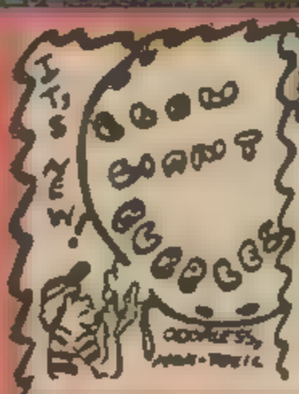

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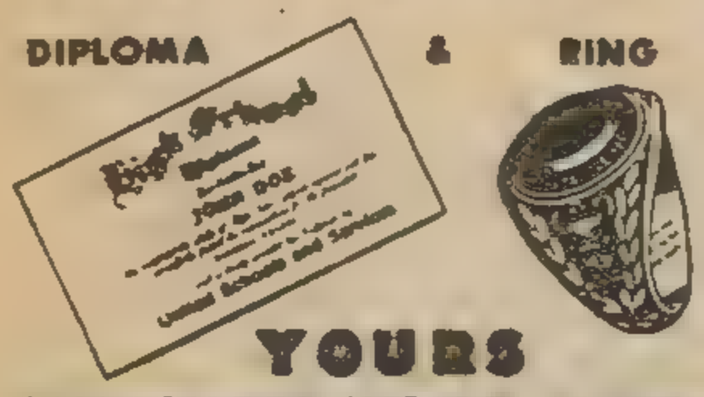

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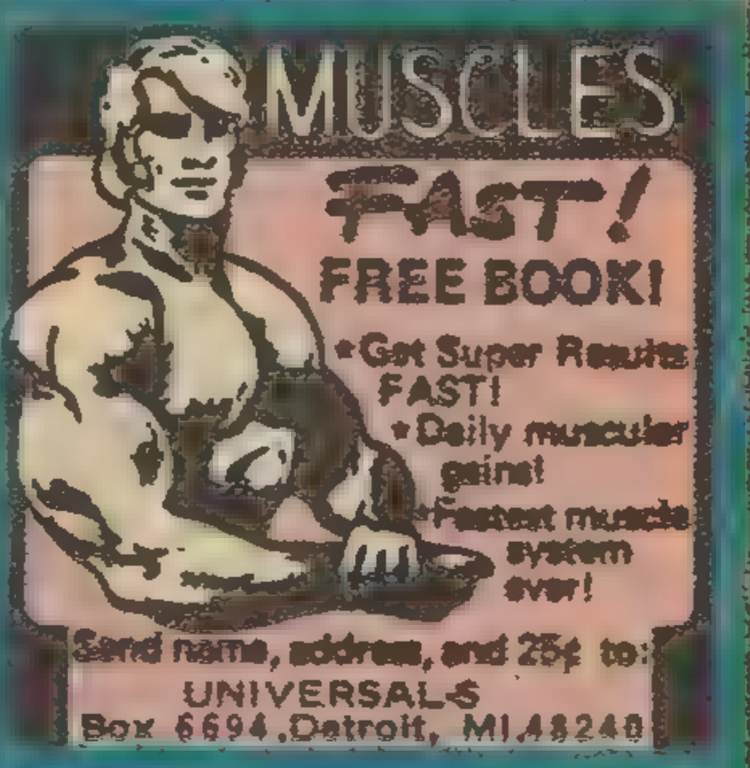

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WHOLESALE Printing Catalog $1.00. Refundable. Monkey Town Press-C, Minonk, Ill. 61760

$500.00 WEEKLY! Easy, immediate home income stuffing envelopes. Free supplies! Guaranteed! Send 25¢, stamp. ALCO, B19110-BJ, Las Vegas, Nv. 89119

KID'S If Dad's a bodyman show him this ad. Match paint perfect, guaranteed. Send $2.00. Lightning Auto, Box 356, Bellaire, Oh. 43906. Illustrated Information.

$2800 ANYONE, easy, guaranteed. $3.99. Box 609, Harrisville, R.I. 02830

SLEEP Learning. 92% effective. Reduce tension, control habits. Details. A.S.R. Foundation, Box 23429N, Ft. Lauderdale, Fl. 33307

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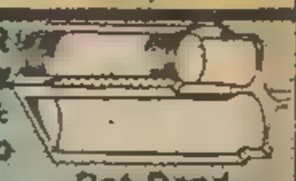

...IT WON'T BE *EASY*-- BUT THEN, FEW THINGS IN YOUR LIFE EVER HAVE BEEN:

KNOWIN' MY *LUCK*, THIS CATHEDRAL'S PROBABLY--

KERASHHHHH

BBURRPPPP

..CRAWLIN' WITH *NAZIS!*

YAS-- UNGHH--!

RAPPATATATTT

I SHOULDA *KNOWN* IT! SOME DAYS IT JUST DON'T *PAY*--

--TO GIT OUTA *BED!*

KRADOOM

FATHER MARTINIQUE! YOU HAFTA LISSEN TO ME- THERE'S GONNA BE AN *AVALANCHE!* IF YOU DON'T GIT YOUR *PEOPLE* -- YOUR--

--OH, *NO*--!

TAKE IT *EASY*, OLD TIMER...

S-SAFE... IN... ;'KAFF;... CATHEDRAL... THE R-ROCKS... *ROCKS*--

--L-LORD... ;CHOKE; ... WILL PROTEC --

HE WAS A *GOOD* MAN-- A *KIND* MAN-- AND WE *BELIEVE* HIM.

OUI! WE WILL BE *SAFE* HERE!

"I SURE HOPE SO, CAUSE WE GOT *COMPANY*--"

--AN' THEY AIN'T WHATCHA'D CALL THE BESTA' *HOSTS!*

KEEP AWAY FROM THE *WINDOWS*... AN' IF ANYO' YOU KNOW A GOOD *PRAYER*--

BURUPPP

"--YOU BETTER MAKE IT SHORT AN' SWEET, 'CAUSE WE JUST RAN OUTA *TIME!*"

KABLAM

CONCLUDED ON 5TH PAGE FOLLOWING

FASTEST GROWING SEA-MONKEYS® OF ALL TIME!

SUPER SEA-MONKEYS®

JUST ADD WATER—CREATE LIVE 'INSTANT PETS!™

THE MOST AMAZING SIGHT YOU HAVE EVER SEEN!

Imagine! **Just add water,** and amazing new **Super Sea-Monkeys®** (Artemia salina) **hatch alive** right **before your eyes!** And that's just the **start** of a **multitude of miracles** that you will see when you own the most **adorable** live pets ever to bring smiles, laughter and joy into the American home

THREE-EYED "FREAKS OF NATURE"!

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SO "EAGER TO PLEASE" THEY "OBEY" YOUR COMMANDS LIKE A SCHOOL OF TINY DOLPHINS!

With boundless energy, **Super Sea-Monkeys®** romp and play night and day. So full of fun, you'll **never** tire watching them swim, race and take turns riding each others backs like cowboys on their ponies. We even show you how to make them appear **to obey your commands**: At a snap of your fingers they follow a candle beam as if hypnotized, loop-the loop like circus daredevils and even "dance" to a lively tune! Because **Super Sea-Monkeys®** eat so little, keep their water so clean, and need just a minimum of care, even an 8-year old child can grow them. If you like the company of pets you'll **love** owning **Super Sea Monkeys®.**

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Since **every word** you have just read about new **Super Sea-Monkeys®** is **absolutely true,** we ship them to you with the most **INCREDIBLE UNCONDITIONAL MONEY-BACK GUARANTEE IN HISTORY!** You **MUST** be **completely satisfied** or you can **KEEP EVERYTHING FREE** including the **Super Sea-Monkeys®,** and upon your request we will **IMMEDIATELY REFUND YOUR MONEY IN FULL** right down to the **LAST PENNY!**

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TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED $_____ (no C.O.D.'s please)

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip ____ ____

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THE MIGHTIEST
OF THEM ALL!
DON'T DARE MISS

SHAZAM! #34

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DC'S NEWEST SUPER-HERO

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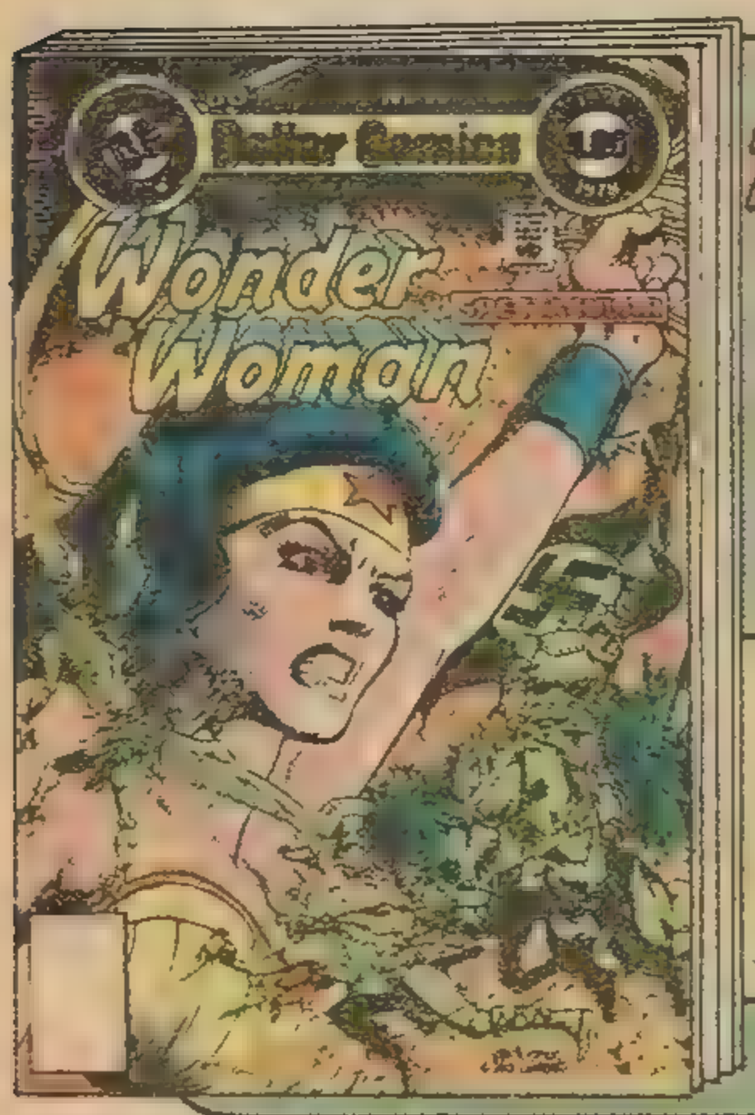

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TO TELL THE TALE!

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WORLD WAR II ADVENTURE!

ON SALE DECEMBER 13TH.

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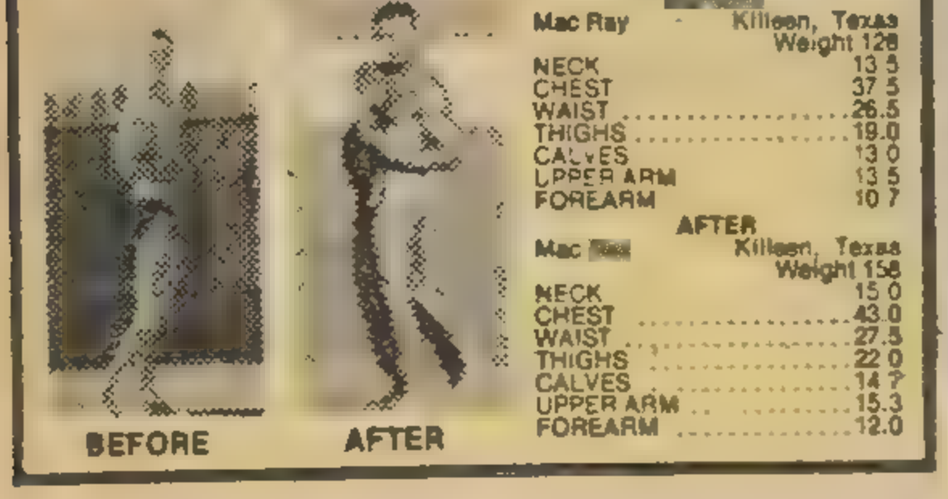
FREE! lesson 1



	Mac Ray — Killeen, Texas
	Weight 128
NECK	13 5
CHEST	37 5
WAIST	26.5
THIGHS	19.0
CALVES	13 0
UPPER ARM	13 5
FOREARM	10 7
	AFTER
Mac [redacted]	Killeen, Texas
	Weight 158
NECK	15 0
CHEST	43.0
WAIST	27.5
THIGHS	22 0
CALVES	14 7
UPPER ARM	15.3
FOREARM	12.0

BEFORE AFTER

$2 $2

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FAITH -- IT IS SAID THAT IT CAN MOVE *MOUNTAINS*--

KRUMBLLE

--AND PERHAPS... JUST PERHAPS--

-- IT *CAN!*

"--IF IT CAN JUST *STEER* THE SNOW *AWAY* FROM THE *CHURCH*..."

AAIEEEE!

WELL, I'LL BE DAM--

-- *DARNED!*

EPILOGUE

BY MORNING, THE FORCE OF THE *AVALANCHE* IS SPENT-- YOUR *MISSION* COMPLETE --

-- ALMOST --

SURE HOPE THE PRIEST *KNEW* WHAT HE WAS *TALKIN'* BOUT-- RIGHT NOW I FIGGER THAT *ROCK FORMATION* I SAW ABOVE THIS CHURCH'S OUR *ONLY CHANCE*--

"AND IF WE ARE TO *DIE*-- IF IT IS *GOD'S WILL*-- WE CHOOSE TO DIE HERE, IN *OUR* VILLAGE OF *TOUBORNE*--

"-- BENEATH THE BLESSED *SHADOW* OF OUR *VIRGIN MARY!*"

the END

DC Publishorial

A Word About the Fight of the Century

Now that we've gone the distance, I can tell you the truth about SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI. Not the whole truth, of course, but enough of it to whet your appetite without pulling any punches.

First, the simple truth. The book—after fifteen grueling, tension-packed months—is a knockout.

All you comic fans have been awaiting this tabloid for over a year. But SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI now has the non-comic book world clamoring for seats. Ever since the New York *Village Voice* splashed news of the match-up across its front page, nationwide coverage of the book has reached that pitch of childish excitement which only adults can generate.

If somehow you missed the hoopla, let me fill you in.

SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI should be appearing on your newsstand just in time for the New Year. It is without a doubt the most extraordinary over-sized comic book ever produced. Better than SUPERMAN VS. SPIDER-MAN? You can't even compare the two. Just start with the Superman-Ali cover and you'll see why.

The cover wraps around the book so that unfolded it's a poster-size image. As you'd predict, Superman and Ali are slugging it out in the ring. Cheering them on is an impassioned throng. But not your run-of-the-mill spectators. They're the people you'd imagine would actually turn up at a fight like this: Frank Sinatra, Sonny and Cher, Lucille Ball, Pele, Kurt Vonnegut, Johnny Carson, and even President Carter with Rosalynn at his side.

Who else? Well, naturally, fight promoter Don King, and Ali's manager, Herbert Muhammad and his trainer Bundini Brown.

In Superman's corner? The whole raft of DC superstars in their civilian identities. Plus the entire DC staff, a fleet of artists and writers, and the heads of Galaxy Communications (in *their* civilian identities as the heads of Warner Communications).

We had to get permission from every one of those people whose visage appears on the book. Neal Adams (who has executed not only the cover but also each interior page with a lavishness of detail unsurpassed in any comic book) spent weeks drawing individual portraits. When we finally finished with this piece of insanity, there were over one hundred and fifty real people at ringside. We've thoughtfully provided an identifying key so that you, too, can go a little crazy and match the faces with the names.

Credit goes to Julie Schwartz for starting us in the first place. For his efforts on the book, Julie has won this decade's Job award for extreme forebearance beyond the capacity of mortal editors. It was nearly two years ago that Julie made his fatal mistake. The champ was in town and SUPERMAN VS. SPIDER-MAN was on the newsstand.

"Ha-ha," said Julie, brilliantly merging the two events. "SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI. Now *that's* a good one."

And with those words he sealed his doom.

Jest became joust. Our man against theirs. Where was Don King? We had a fight to arrange!

Don was charming but alarming, he hustled, we haggled, he was outrageous, we were courageous; when he demanded 700 percent we held firm and walked out.

Lawyers, phone calls, meetings, meetings, phone calls, phone calls. Two months later we had a deal—with Don. We still had to make a deal with Ali's manager, Herbert Muhammad. Herbert's terms were simple. Total approval of everything.

"It's the only way," he said to me. We were sitting at his kitchen table in Chicago. I wanted his total approval of the story and Neal's first drawings.

The phone over Herbert's head rang. He tilted back his chair to answer it, cited a foreign country, and named a multi-million dollar figure.

"Wait a minute," he said into the receiver and turned to me.

"Do you have a pen? I never can find one when I need one," he apologized.

I took out a pen and told Herbert to keep it. From then on, we were working together.

"Now for the plot," said Herbert, hanging up the phone. Why don't you read it to me?"

So I started to read it and ended up telling it.

"It's good, it's good," Herbert beamed. "It sounds more exciting than the movie script we're considering."

He looked at the three drawings of Ali with infinite care. Minutes passed. Finally, he said:

"They're good, too, but tell the artist to fatten Ali's calves when he does the book. Ali's legs are stronger than that."

Once I returned from Chicago, Neal began laying out pages based on the synopsis that Denny O'Neil and Julie had cooked up. When the first double-page spread came in, we were blown out. No alien spaceships, no intergalactic battle, simply a street in Harlem. But what a street! So packed with the overflow of humanity and visual vignettes that you can study the scene for an hour and still find something new.

On the other hand, the story centers not just on a climactic fight between Earth's two supermen but also on an equally climactic bid for interplanetary control. SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI does have alien spaceships, intergalactic battles and pyrotechnical treats.

It also has Dick Giordano's superlative inks, Terry Austin's mind-boggling backgrounds, Neal's own fine writing, and Herbert Muhammad's total approval every step of the way.

Who wins? All of us. It's been a long, hard fight to put out this incredible book. But we feel like champions. When you see how stupendous the tabloid is, you'll be glad you fought for your copy.

Have a happy, healthy New Year—

Jenette

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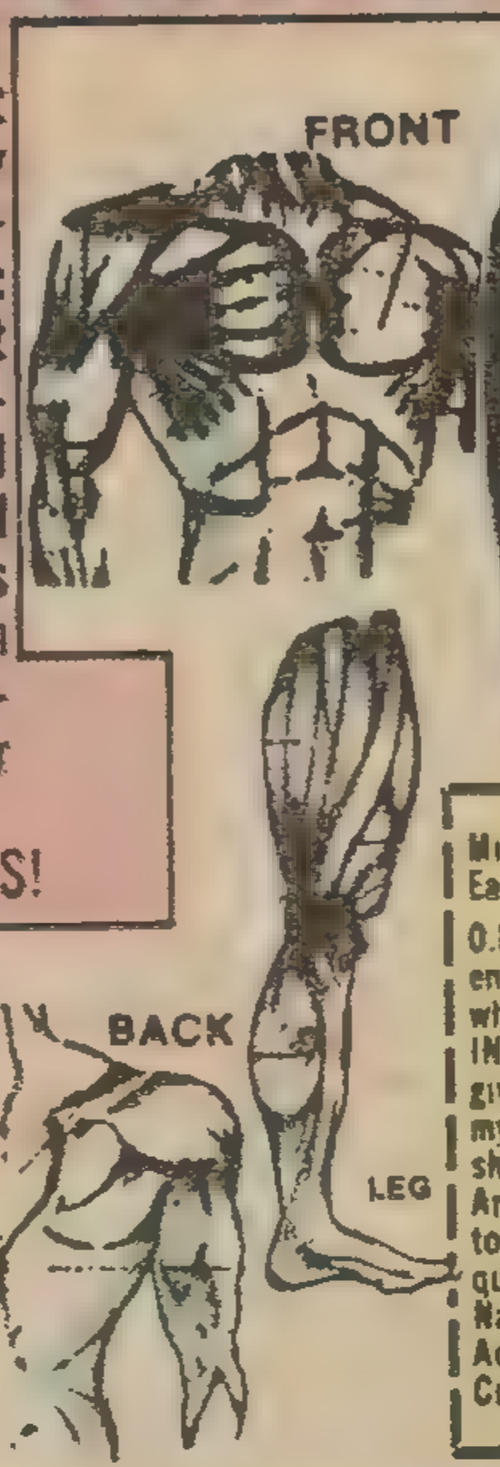

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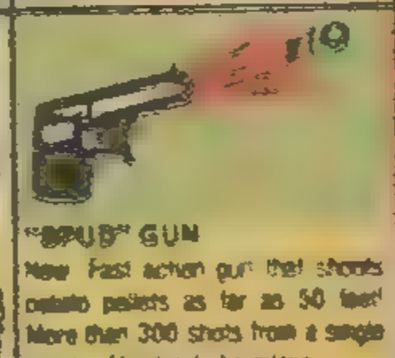

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NEWS

The London Inquirer

NEWS

AUGUST 5, 1940

LONDON IN THE SUMMER OF 1940 WAS NOT THE SAFEST PLACE TO BE... HITLER'S BOMBS BLASTED THE BELEAGUERED CITY WITH ALMOST HOURLY REGULARITY. BUT I WAS GLAD TO BE THERE AS A WAR CORRESPONDENT, SO I COULD ATTACH THE WAYNE CLIFFORD BYLINE TO A...

DATELINE: FRONTLINE

"HUMAN INTEREST STORY"

THOUGH I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT THINGS WEREN'T WORKING OUT AS I HAD PLANNED. I WANTED TO DO AN IN-DEPTH STUDY OF HOW THE WAR WAS GOING--BUT ALL MY EDITOR WAS INTERESTED IN WAS A GOOD OLD...

I CAN'T *BELIEVE* IT! HERE I AM TRYING MY BEST TO WRITE WITH *DEPTH*--WITH *SCOPE*, AND I GET *THIS* ASSIGNMENT--

--A REPORT ON WHAT IT'S LIKE FOR LONDONERS WHO SPEND THEIR NIGHTS IN THE *SHELTER* OF THE *UNDER-GROUND SUBWAY STATIONS!*

KID, YOU STILL GOT A LOT TO *LEARN!* YOU EVER HEAR THE OLD FABLE ABOUT THE *BLIND MEN* AND THE *ELEPHANT?*

CARY BURKETT, *WRITER* ★ JERRY GRANDENETTI, *ARTIST* ★ MILT SNAPINN, *LETTERER* ★ D.R. MARTIN, *COLORIST*

HERE IT COMES, I THOUGHT. MORE BEER-BOTTLE PHILOSOPHY FROM MY BUDDY, ED BARNES...

THE SIX *BLIND MEN* HAD TO DESCRIBE THIS *ELE-PHANT*, SEE... BUT THEY EACH TOOK HOLD OF A *DIFFERENT* PART. ONE GRABBED HIS *EAR*, ONE GRABBED ITS *TRUNK*...

...SO THEY EACH CAME UP WITH A *DIFFERENT* IDEA OF WHAT AN ELEPHANT WAS, BECAUSE THEY EACH ONLY HAD A *PART* OF THE *WHOLE PICTURE!*

BUT WHEN THEY SAT DOWN TO COMPARE NOTES, THEY CAME UP WITH A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF WHAT THE ELEPHANT REALLY LOOKED LIKE, BY PUTTING ALL THE DIFFERENT PARTS TOGETHER!

JUST *WHAT* ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY, OH GREAT WISE MAN?

JUST THIS... WAR CORRESPONDENTS ARE LIKE THOSE BLIND MEN... FUMBLING AROUND, TRYING TO DESCRIBE ONE HELL OF A BIG ELEPHANT...

WE CAN'T EXPECT TO GET THE WHOLE THING ON ONE TRY! WE GOTTA TAKE IT ONE SECTION AT A TIME. YOU... YOU WANT TO SWALLOW THE WHOLE ELEPHANT IN ONE BITE!

ORDINARILY I WOULD HAVE FOUND ED'S CRYPTIC COMMENTS AMUSING. THIS TIME THOUGH, I FELT THEY WERE SILLY AND ANNOYING...

...MAYBE BECAUSE DEEP DOWN I KNEW HE WAS RIGHT.

BUT I WASN'T GOING TO ADMIT THAT TO HIM... AT LEAST NOT JUST THEN...

BESIDES... I HAD AN ASSIGNMENT TO START WORKING ON.

IF I'M GOING TO WRITE ABOUT THESE UNDERGROUND TRAIN STATIONS, I NEED TO BE THERE WHEN THE NEXT RAID STARTS!

THIS IS ONE OF THE AREAS WHERE THE BOMBING IS HEAVIEST! THIS STATION MUST GET A LOT OF USE AS A BOMB-SHELTER!

UNDERGROUND

THE FIRST THING I NOTICED WAS THE NAUSEATING STENCH OF THE PLACE... BUT THIS WAS QUICKLY PUSHED OUT OF MY MIND BY THE HORRIBLE SIGHT THAT GREETED ME...

THIS-THIS IS INCREDIBLE! THESE PEOPLE -- STILL HERE -- CAMPED DOWN HERE, AND THERE'S NOT EVEN A RAID GOING ON!

IT LOOKS -- AND SMELLS AS IF THEY'D BEEN HERE FOR WEEKS!

A DANCING DAILY

THE SUNDAY CLUB

JOIN A BALLOON BARRAGE SQUADRON

BUY WAR BON

IN THE DAMP GLOOM OF THE PLACE, THERE WAS ONE RAY OF LIGHT --AND I WENT TO IT LIKE A MOTH...

ER...AH, EXCUSE ME, MISS! WHAT'S GOING ON DOWN HERE? I THOUGHT THESE STATIONS WERE TO BE USED FOR SHELTER WHEN THERE'S A BOMBING RAID!

THAT'S RIGHT, SIR! AND THE NAME'S JULIE!

BUT...ALL THESE PEOPLE! THEY SHOULDN'T BE HERE! THERE'S NO RAID NOW!

THEY LOOK AS IF THEY LIVE DOWN HERE! WHAT ARE THEY DOING?

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT THEY ARE DOING--LIVING! WHERE ELSE WOULD THEY GO? MOST OF THEIR HOMES WERE DESTROYED IN RAIDS!

AND THE FEW THAT STILL HAVE A PLACE TO CALL HOME ARE AFRAID TO GO BACK. THIS IS THE ONLY PLACE THAT THEY FEEL SAFE!

MAN the BARABE

JOIN A BALLOC

BARRAGE

SQUADRO

I LOOKED AROUND THEN... SEEING THE DESPAIR ETCHED IN THE TAUT FACES... SEEING THE BROKEN SHELLS OF HUMAN BEINGS, THEIR NERVES SHATTERED BY THE CONTINUAL SHELLING...

UH... JULIE?

NEED SOME HELP PASSING OUT THOSE BLANKETS?

WE QUICKLY BECAME PARTNERS IN OUR MISSION OF MERCY. I LEARNED THAT SHE CAME OFTEN, ON A VOLUNTEER BASIS, TO HELP THESE MISERABLE SOULS...

BUT MOST OF THESE PEOPLE NEED MEDICAL HELP! AREN'T THERE HOSPITALS THEY COULD GO TO?

THE HOSPITALS ARE FULL, WAYNE! ONLY THOSE SEVERELY INJURED CAN BE ADMITTED!

ANY HOSPITAL ABOVE GROUND COULDN'T HELP THEM ANYWAY! THEY'RE TERRIFIED OF LEAVING HERE!

ALL OF THE REFUGES WERE IN A PATHETIC STATE, BUT ONE OLD MAN IN PARTICULAR CAUGHT MY EYE...

JULIE... WHO'S THE OLD FELLOW?

OH... THAT'S OLD *DIGGER*! NO ONE REMEMBERS HIS *REAL* NAME -- LEAST OF ALL *HIM*!

I DO KNOW A *LITTLE* ABOUT HIM, THOUGH!

"SHORTLY AFTER THE RAIDS ON LONDON BEGAN, HIS HOUSE WAS HIT. HIS HOME WAS DESTROYED, AND HIS WIFE KILLED, ALL IN THE SPACE OF TWO SECONDS!"

BLAM!

"DIGGER MANAGED TO ESCAPE INJURY, AND TRIED TO MAKE IT TO HIS SON'S HOME, WHICH WAS NEARBY..."

"HE REACHED HIS GOAL... OR NEARLY. AS HE APPROACHED, HIS SON'S HOME, AND EVERY-ONE INSIDE WAS BLASTED INTO OBLIVION!"

BRRRRRRAM!

"HE MUST HAVE BEEN IN A STATE OF SHOCK, HIS ONLY THOUGHT TO GET OUT OF THE OPEN. ANYWAY, HE WOUND UP HERE."

EEEEEEEEEEEE

THAT MUCH I'VE BEEN ABLE TO *PIECE TOGETHER* BY TALKING TO HIM... BUT HE'S RARELY *COHERENT*...

HE'S ALWAYS MUMBLING SOMETHING ABOUT *DIGGING*... THAT'S HOW HE GOT HIS *NICKNAME*.

CONTINUED ON 3RD PAGE FOLLOWING.

MONEYMAKER

Insert a blank piece of paper, turn the knob and . . . OUT COMES A REAL DOLLAR BILL! Insert the dollar and it changes to a $5 then the $5 changes to $10.

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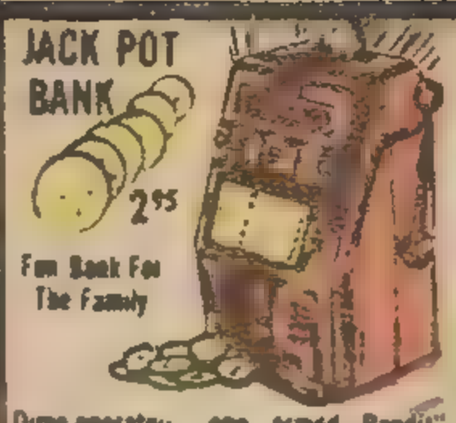

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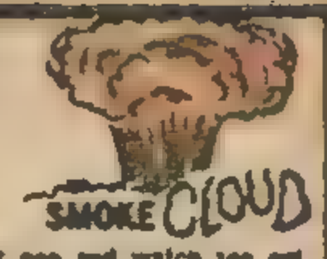

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MONSTER

7 FEET TALL / IN AUTHENTIC COLORS

GLOW in the DARK EYES

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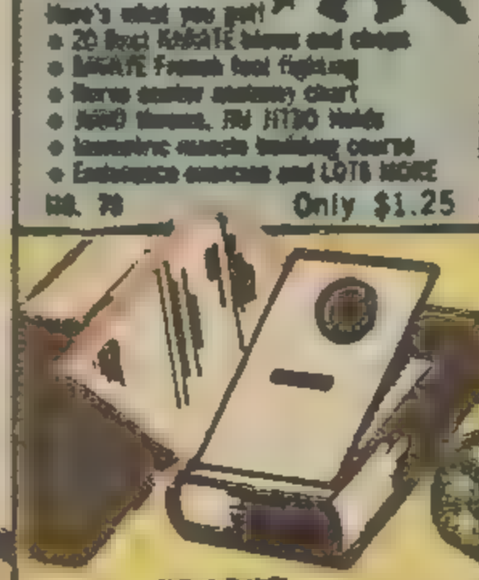

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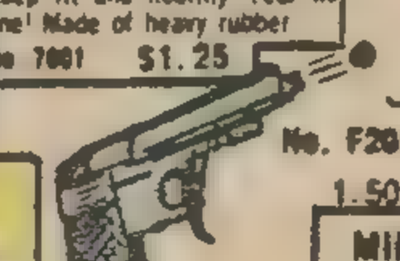

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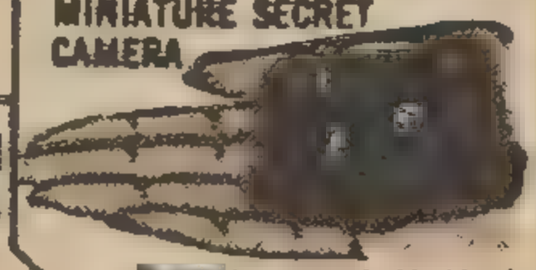

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3 Rolls Film 98¢

7 FOOT [illegible]

Bigger than life—Frankenstein, the most made monster (that I bet has eyes glow eerily), is available now! In durable polyethylene, as scary as your wildest nightmare.

7 FOOT [illegible]

No [illegible] $1.25

MONSTER-SIZE SKELETON

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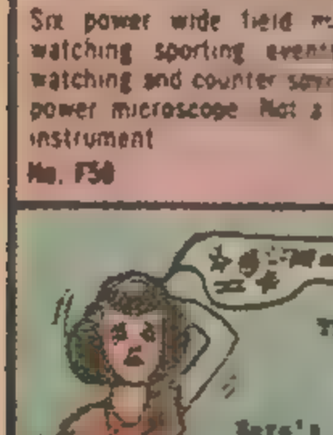

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Here's a fake egg that looks absolutely real... until someone tries to crack it. What a surprise! Absolutely indestructible.

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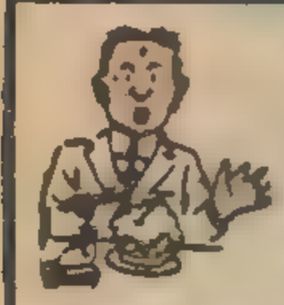

FOAMING SUGAR

Looks just like real sugar, but that's where the resemblance stops. When it's dropped in liquids, they overflow and form clouds of suds.

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Just like a professional money changer. Attaches to any belt. Holds pennies, nickels dimes and quarters.

No. 70 2.25

ONION GUM

Looks like real chewing gum but tastes like ONIONS! It's too funny! 5 sticks to a pack

No 701 49¢

Many Times Size

MONSTER GHOST

Obeys Your Commands!

OVER 7 FEET TALL

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MT 101 ..... $1.25

CALENDAR SAVER FORCES YOU TO SAVE

Date Reminder

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It takes only a quarter a day to change the date on your calendar bank, but at the end of the year you have been FORCED to save almost $165! You can't miss even one day because your "calendar" will be wrong. Perfect for home or office.

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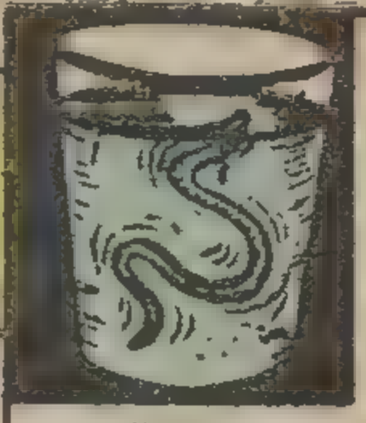

WORMS

Drop these seemingly innocent pellets into a glass of water and magically a worm will appear. Can you imagine the look of horror on your victims face? It's harmless.

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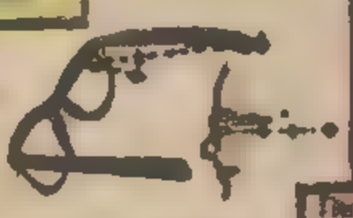

SEE BEHIND GLASSES

A specially treated pair of sunglasses with secret mirrors that enables you to see behind you without anyone knowing that you're watching.

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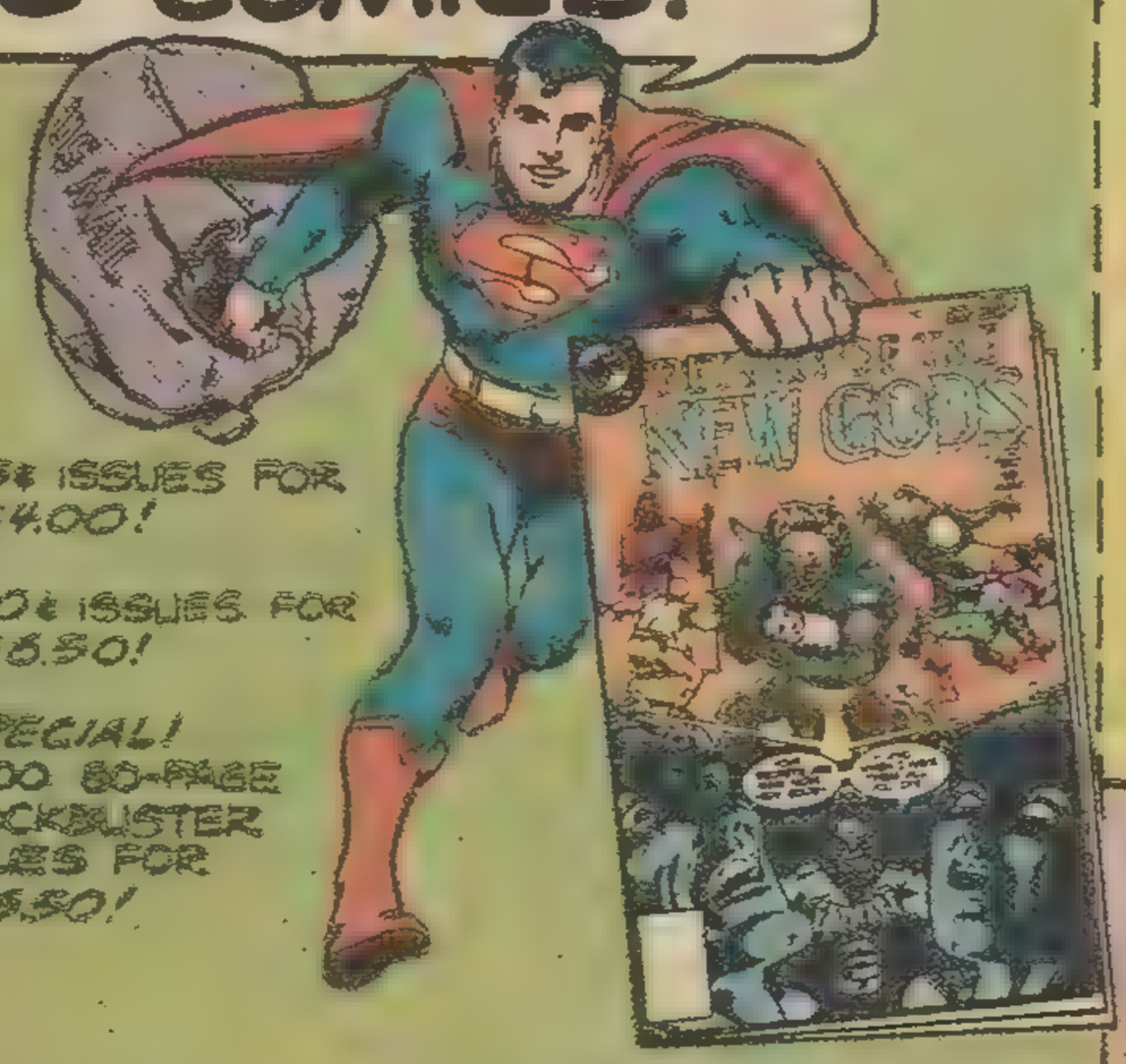

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THE OLD MAN STANK SICKENINGLY OF HUMAN SWEAT... BUT SOMETHING--MAYBE THE REPORTER IN ME--DREW ME TO HIM...

HERE, OLD FELLA! THIS'LL KEEP YOU WARM!

AH...AH, IT DOESN'T MATTER, LAD! THEY'RE COMING, YOU KNOW! THEY KEEP DIGGING AND DIGGING...!

DIGGING? WHO, OLD MAN? WHO IS DIGGING?

HITLER! HE'S COMING FOR ME! H-HE'S DIGGING A TUNNEL TO GET ME! I CAN HEAR THEM AT NIGHT... DIGGING AND DIGGING...

SOON THEY'LL BE HERE! THEY'LL BREAK THROUGH!

THE OLD MAN'S WHEEZING, CRACKLED VOICE WAS HARD ENOUGH TO HEAR, BUT JUST THEN IT BECAME IMPOSSIBLE, AS THE AIR RAID SIREN SUDDENLY BEGAN SCREAMING...

OH, GREAT! A BOMBING RAID!

JUST SIT TIGHT, OLD MAN! YOU'RE SAFE DOWN HERE!

EEEEEEEEEE

TRUST THE GERMANS TO MAKE A LIAR OUT OF ME! A NEAR-MISS SHOOK THE WHOLE PLACE AND COLLAPSED PART OF THE TUNNEL!

IT'S ALL RIGHT! NOBODY'S HURT!

KABOOM

NOOOOO!

WHEN THE DUST CLEARED, I GAPED IN ASTONISHMENT WHAT WAS REVEALED BY THE TUNNEL'S COLLAPSE...

IT'S THEM! THE GERMANS! THEY'VE DUG THEIR WAY THROUGH!

THEY WEREN'T GERMAN...ONLY CIVIL DEFENSE WORKERS DOING REPAIR WORK ON THE SUBWAY SYSTEM!...OBVIOUSLY WHAT DIGGER HAD HEARD AT NIGHT. BUT THE OLD MAN WAS TOO TERRIFIED TO LISTEN...

DIGGER! STOP! DON'T GO OUT THERE!

THEY'RE BRITISH, OLD MAN! THEY WONT HURT YOU!

COME BACK, DIGGER!

JULIE, WAIT THEY'RE STILL--

EXIT

--BOMBINGGAHHHHHHH!

EXIT

BAARAAKA ABLAM

JULIE!

IT'S NO USE MATE. THEY'VE BOUGHT IT!

BLIMEY! THE OLD BLOKE MUST'VE BEEN OFF 'IS HEAD!

MAYBE WE ALL ARE, FRIENDS!

MAYBE WE ALL ARE...!

I WAS STILL BROODING IN THE PUB THE NEXT DAY WHEN ED WALKED IN AND FOUND ME...

HEY, KID! YOU DON'T LOOK SO GOOD! SOMETHING WRONG?

YOU REMEMBER THAT ELEPHANT YOU WERE TELLING ME ABOUT YESTERDAY, ED?

WELL I GRABBED A PART OF IT ALL RIGHT...

...I PUT MY HAND RIGHT SMACK DAB ON ITS REAR END!

END

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE DURING THE FIRST WEEK IN FEBRUARY

BATTLE LINES

L-841

c/o DC COMICS, INC., 75 ROCKEFELLER PLAZA
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10019

Dear Creative Crew,

I don't normally enjoy war comics, and seldom buy or read them, but **MEN OF WAR** is . . . different. **Gravedigger** is an interesting, innovative series and Ulysses Hazard already has a fairly well-defined (and for a war comic) unique character. As long as you continue to explore (not exploit) his predicament, you've got yourself a loyal fan.

Enemy Ace, though Ed Davis' art is wondrous, still remains one-dimensional. Please investigate his aloofness—and maybe give us some insight into why he is who he is. As the series now stands (#2), there is too much action, and too little introversion. As a Vietnam vet, I know that war is hell, and would appreciate it if he showed more dislike for killing. Bruce Scott,
4487 E. Sierra Madre, Fresno, CA 93726

It's difficult to fit as much introspection into the six-page installments of *Enemy Ace*, but we will try and get more into Von Hammer's background when he returns to these pages in #7 or #8. Bob Kanigher has scripted a three-parter delving into the Hammer of Hell's past, and artist Larry Hama will be penciling it even as you read this page.—PL.

Dear Paul,

Gravedigger could become a great spy series. Or it could become a forum for Michelinie to spew off all his gripes on society. Right now it's a mixture of the two with an unfortunate leaning on the latter.

The whole premise of the origin is ridiculous: first in Gravedigger's break-in at the Pentagon (a true patriot wouldn't have gone as far as he did regardless of how he was being discriminated against) and second in the reaction of the War Secretary. While the latter is a bit more believable, the reasons for the former are not. I doubt that Gravedigger would have had as much credit stolen from him for his deeds as he did in the first issue. At any rate, there's not much excuse for a war comic that is edited, written and drawn by people who've never been in a war. This almost necessitates that the title become a forum for "relevant" statements and spewing off at the mouth. Mark Schmieder,
556 Old Road, Concord, Mass. 01742

Frankly, Mark, we find your premise irrational. The concept that only veterans can write (or edit or draw) war comics seems as suspect as the idea that only astronauts can work on science-fiction comics set in outer space. While personal experience can always bring an additional richness and realism to any effort, it's hardly an absolute prerequistite. If it was, neither the literary genres of science fiction or historical romance could exist—and the number of published works in all other fields of literature would be drastically reduced.

Nor do we accept the criticism that the story was flawed because a true patriot wouldn't have gone as far as Gravedigger did—we never treated Gravedigger as being primarily patriotically motivated, and defining the limits of what a "true patriot" would do seems a little extreme as well.

While we're not sure where we should draw the dividing line between introspection (which reader Bruce Scott seems to prefer and overburdening philosophical statements, we're certain there is a middle line—and it includes the possibility of doing a "relevant" *and* entertaining series.—PL.

Dear Editor:

Generally speaking, I don't read all that many war mags. I pick up a **SGT. ROCK** or an **UNKNOWN SOLDIER** occassionally, but never regularly. That is, until today.

It always helps, of course, to get in on the ground floor. In other words, its easier to follow a comic book if one is in on the genesis. Specifically, I am referring to **MEN OF WAR #1**. Thus, I have been given the opportunity to speak about a totally new series—**Code Name: Gravedigger**—without feelinglike a newcomer,or,worse, someone who doesn't know what he is talking about. Also, I have been given a chance to speak about David Michelinie, whose career I have sporadically followed.

I haven't read a whole lot of Michelinie's work, but I have seen many of his "first" issues. I read his first **SWAMP THING, AQUAMAN**, and his first two issues of **STARFIRE**. The one common denominator found in all of the above, and **Gravedigger** as well, is that they were overwritten. What I mean is that Michelinie writes incredibly well, but hasn't yet learned how and when to stop talking. David delivers his messages quite well through the body of a story, but then seems to kill the effect by having the character say to himself what everyone already knows. However, I'm sure that David will continually improve, as he seems to do with each issue.

Gravedigger, as a series, looks to be a good one. I do wish, though, that a black could be portrayed in comics without the perennial "chip on the shoulder." Also, must every hero claw himself up from poverty or crippled legs or an orphaned childhood or persecution? Sure, it's more dramatic and inspiring, but normal guys have courage too, you know. Dave Blanchard,
2709 Woodside Drive, Rockford, IL 61109

Those who wish to follow David's career will have to shift their sights to *ADVENTURE COMICS*, where he's taking over the scripting chores on the *Superboy* series. Taking his place is another master scribe from south of the Mason-Dixon line, Roger McKenzie, who makes his debut this issue. Roger's been writing for the Warren magazines for the past couple of years and just joined the DC staff recently, but we have high hopes for him and trust you'll give him a warm welcome to his first series.

At the same, how about a belated warm welcome to new penciller Dick Ayers, who has been illustrating World War Two stories for more years than the war lasted. Dick's joined us to add an air of authenticity to the work, and we're glad to have him with us.—PL.

* * * * *

Although *MEN OF WAR* has received relatively heavy mail for a war comic, we trust that this issue's lettercol controversies will spark even more fiery correspondance—and we'll be waiting to read it.—Paul Levitz, Editor.

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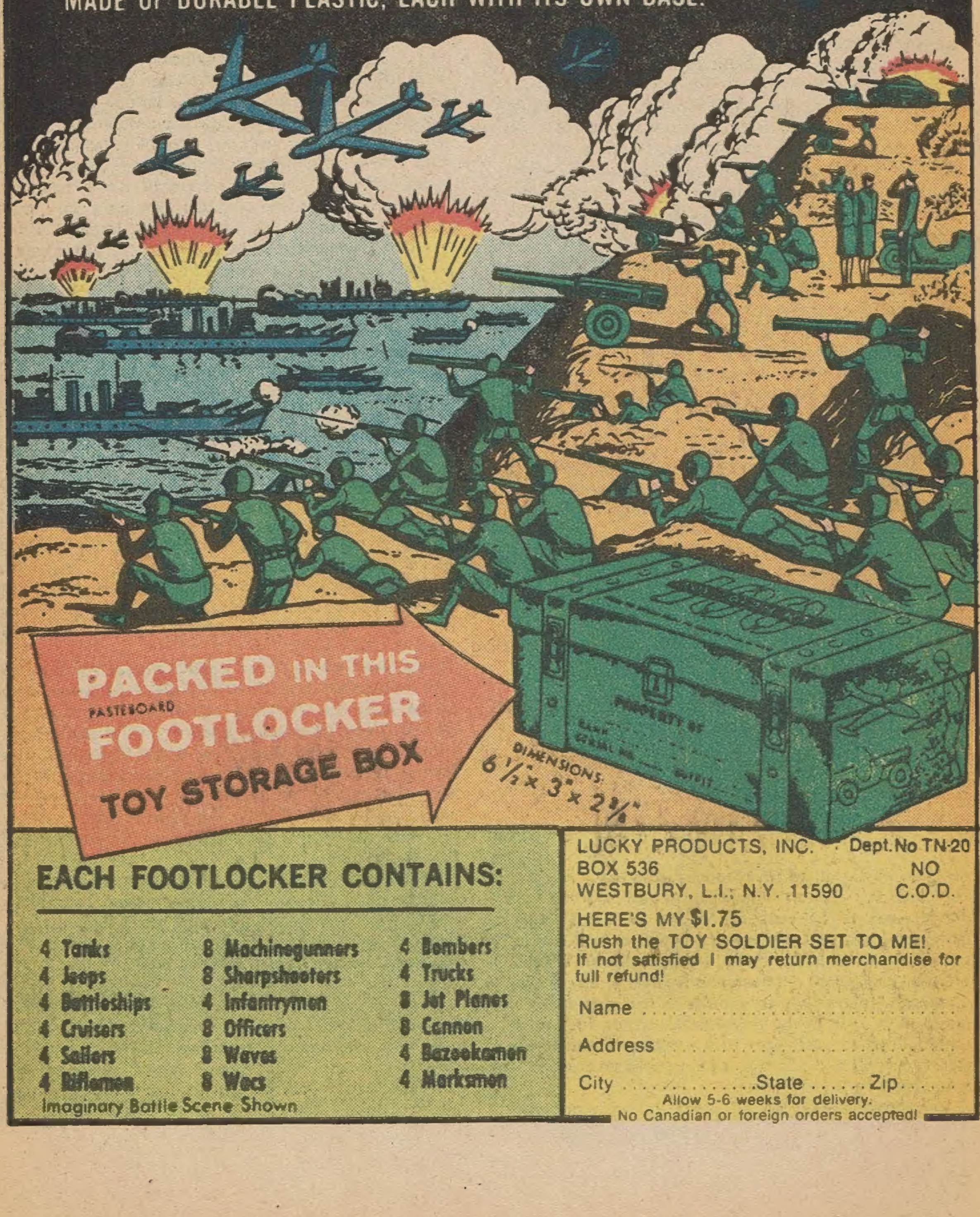

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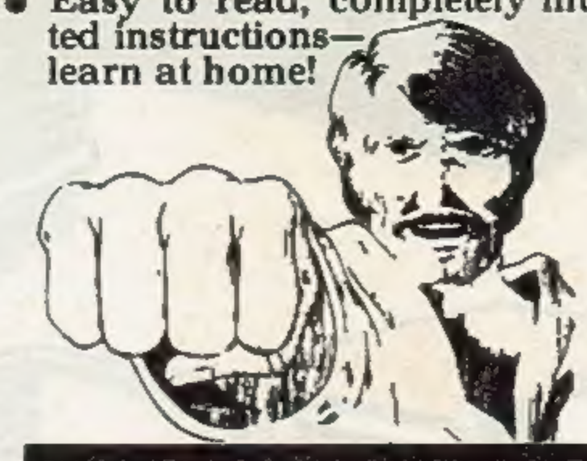

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